



# City of Westminster

CIVIC CENTER  
8200 WESTMINSTER BOULEVARD  
WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA 92683  
(714) 898-3311

MARGIE L. RICE  
MAYOR

ANDY QUACH  
MAYOR PRO TEM

FRANK G. FRY  
COUNCIL MEMBER

KERMIT D. MARSH  
COUNCIL MEMBER

TRI TA  
COUNCIL MEMBER

RAMON SILVER  
CITY MANAGER

November 12, 2008

Dear Resident:

For several years, our City has been working closely with Caltrans and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) on the I-405 Freeway Improvement Project. We all have the same goal in mind: easing gridlock on the I-405 freeway with a project that stays within the existing freeway footprint.

To accomplish this, OCTA undertook a study that explored 13 alternatives to improve the freeway. After receiving input from the City, the OCTA Board voted in 2005 to move forward with only one of the alternatives: Alternative 4, referred to as the Locally Preferred Strategy. That alternative included two options and it remains the same today.

The first of the two options would add a single lane on I-405 in each direction between Brookhurst Street and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605). The second option would add two lanes in each direction along the same stretch of freeway. Both proposed options would stay primarily within the existing freeway footprint; however, the second option would utilize sub-standard lane and shoulder widths. The options also include merging lanes, linking an on-ramp to the next off-ramp, where there is sufficient right-of-way available.

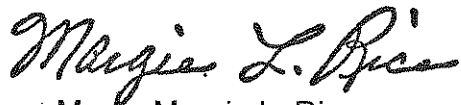
The project will move into its environmental phase next year where an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared. OCTA is planning to hold a series of public meetings as this phase gets under way in order to obtain feedback from residents. I encourage all residents to attend these meetings and provide their input.

The EIR is expected to be completed in late 2011; the project is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion. Construction is 7 to 10 years away depending upon funding availability.

More than 300,000 vehicles travel through stretches of I-405 every day, and by 2025 that number is expected to increase by 13%. It is clear we have to move forward with a project that will bring relief to those who use the freeway. The project will also bring relief to our City streets that are now being used as detours by motorists who experience gridlock on the freeway.

I am confident this project can be built in a way that will improve the freeway and take into consideration the quality of life that is a top priority for our City Council and our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie L. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Margie L. Rice